California Sentinel Provider Influenza Surveillance Program

Sponsored by:

The California Department of Public Health, Immunization Branch, Viral and Rickettsial Disease Laboratory and

the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



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California Sentinel Provider Influenza Surveillance Program

California clinicians are a critical component of the state and national surveillance network for influenza.

Enroll now to volunteer for this influenza season!

Questions?

Please contact Immunization Branch Phone: (510) 620-3737 Email: InfluenzaSurveillance@cdph.ca.gov

For more information visit our website: www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/dcdc/Pages/ CaliforniaSentinelProviderProgram.aspx

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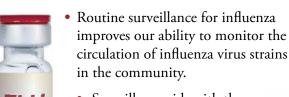
Fax: (916) 440-5984

We need your help to track influenza in California!

The California Sentinel Provider Influenza Surveillance Program is a partnership between clinicians, local health departments (LHDs), the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to conduct surveillance for *influenza-like illness (ILI)*. The program contributes valuable epidemiological and virologic information to state, national, and global influenza surveillance acitivities.

Why is surveillance for influenza important?

- Seasonal influenza is a significant cause of illness and death in California each year.
- Pandemic influenza is an unpredictable but inevitable threat.



• Surveillance aids with the detection of new subtypes and emerging strains of influenza viruses, an important element of preparedness for pandemic

influenza.

 The data collected by Sentinel Providers assist CDPH and CDC with developing influenza prevention and control strategies and with selecting the virus strains to be included as

Who is eligible to be

a Sentinel Provider?

Sentinel providers may be physicians, nurse practitioners, or physician assistants from any specialty.



Data Collection and Reporting

- Keep a record of the number of patient visits for influenza-like illness (categorized by age group) and the total number of patient visits for any reason.
- Report this influenza-like illness data weekly by internet or fax.

Specimen Collection

• Collect nasal swabs or respiratory specimens from a subset of patients that meet the

ILI case definition and submit them to the state laboratory for testing.

• All testing is performed at no cost to the provider. CDPH supplies the specimen collection materials and pays for shipping.

What feedback and materials do Sentinel Providers receive?

- **Individual test results** for specimens submitted to the state laboratory.
- **Rapid Antigen Test Kits** (Influenza A and B) are offered to qualified providers to facilitate onsite diagnostic testing.
- Weekly updates of state and national influenza activity.

